

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 24, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 1 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (b) and (c):

(a) $0.03 \leq P \leq 30$

(b) $3 \leq Q \leq 800$

(c) $0.5 \leq Q/P \leq 1000$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 2 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships (d), (e) and (f):

(d) $0.03 \leq P \leq 10$

(e) $7 \leq Q \leq 300$

(f) $0.5 \leq Q/P \leq 300$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 21, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 3 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships (g), (h) and (i):

$$(g) 0.03 \leq P \leq 5$$

$$(h) 10 \leq Q \leq 200$$

$$(i) 1 \leq Q/P \leq 150$$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 4 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (j), (k) and (l):

$$(j) 0.5 \leq D_{ys} \leq 10$$

$$(k) 0.002 \leq D_{xs} \leq 10$$

$$(l) 0.5 \leq D_{ys}/D_{xs} \leq 300$$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 18, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 5 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the inorganic compound of poor water solubility is at least one kind selected from silicate mineral, calcium carbonate, zeolite, magnesium carbonate, and

magnesium phosphate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 6 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the inorganic compound of poor water solubility is at least one kind selected from silicate mineral, zeolite, and magnesium phosphate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 7 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility comprising calcium phosphate with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (e), (m) and (n):

(a) $0.03 \leq P \leq 30$

(e) $3 \leq Q \leq 300$

(m) $0.01 \leq R \leq 30$

(n) $0.5 \leq S \leq 300$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 19, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 8 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility comprising

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calcium phosphate with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (e), (o) and (t):

(a) $0.03 \leq P \leq 30$

(e) $3 \leq Q \leq 300$

(o) $0.01 \leq R \leq 10$

(t) $0.5 \leq S \leq 100$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 12, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 9 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent which comprises a preparation of a mixture of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility comprising calcium phosphate with an additive, satisfying the following relationships of (a), (e), (u) and (v) :

(a) $0.03 \leq P \leq 30$

(e) $3 \leq Q \leq 300$

(u) $0.01 \leq R \leq 5$

(v) $0.5 < S \leq 10$

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 5, as follows:

~~Claim~~ Aspect 10 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the additive is at least one kind selected from condensed phosphoric acid and a salt thereof, lecithin, sterol, amino acid, and sucrose fatty acid ester.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 9, as follows:

Claim Aspect 11 of the present invention is to provide a flower thinning agent according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein an amount of the additive is 0.005 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the inorganic compound of poor water solubility.

Please delete the paragraphs from page 53, line 7, to page 53, line 25, as follows:

~~Application Example 64~~

~~Using a pear (Kosui) tree, flower thinning effect was confirmed. That is, using the aforementioned pear tree, the flower thinning agent of Example 1 was spread at a concentration indicated in Table 10 two times, at a flowering rate of 30% and 80%. In this respect, at the present experiment, an air temperature at flowering was low, and weather was bad. Therefore, a scatter in flowering was greater than usual. An effective ingredient concentration was based on a solid matter weight of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility. Treatment was every branch treatment, and the agent was spread with a back loading sprayer.~~

~~Assessment was expressed as a remaining fruit rate relative to the number of flowering. Regarding medicine damage, results of observation of a leaf state such as defoliation, discolored leaf and deformed leaf were expressed by the following five stages. Results are shown in Table 9:~~

~~⊖: Normal~~

~~⊙: Extremely small damage~~

~~□: Small damage~~

~~△: Intermediate damage~~

~~*: Great damage~~

Please insert the following paragraphs beginning on page 56, line 1:

Application Example 64

Using a pear (Kosui) tree, flower thinning effect was confirmed. That is, using the aforementioned pear tree, the flower thinning agent of Example 1 was spread at a concentration indicated in Table 10 two times, at a flowering rate of 30% and 80%. In this respect, at the present experiment, an air temperature at flowering was low, and weather was bad. Therefore, a scatter in flowering was greater than usual. An effective ingredient concentration was based on a solid matter weight of an inorganic compound of poor water solubility. Treatment was every branch treatment, and the agent was spread with a back loading sprayer.

Assessment was expressed as a remaining fruit rate relative to the number of flowering. Regarding medicine damage, results of observation of a leaf state such as defoliation, discolored leaf and deformed leaf were expressed by the following five stages. Results are shown in Table 9.

: Normal

○: Extremely small damage

□: Small damage

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△: Intermediate damage

×: Great damage